

BROWNSVILLE, TEX. SEE MAP

One of the Interesting Spots on This Globe Is Going Into Fast Decay Near Border.

GOSSIP OF THE FRONTIER

By EDWARD BLACK.

Get out your map and look way down the western coast of the Gulf of Mexico, in the southwestern part of Texas, and you will see the name of a town known as Brownsville. This out-of-the-way place was little known to the world until a few years ago when United States negro troopers stationed at Fort Brown "shot up" the town. Then Brownsville was put on the map. The people are not proud of that event; it clings to them as a sort of a nightmare. Brownsville is one of the most unique towns of the country. There are about 12,000 residents, with approximately 9,000 Mexicans and 3,000 Americans. It rests on the Rio Grande river and from the edge of town one may look across the river and see the trees of old Mexico in the distance. The town is on an island as a table and it is built right up to the river bank. Fort Brown is within a few blocks of the business district. There are now about 1,000 United States soldiers—cavalrymen, field battery and coast artillery men—at the fort in charge of Colonel A. P. Blockson, who has part of the border control.

This town is a typical border town. I was talking one day to Chief of Police Billy Linton, who said: "This is one of the toughest towns along the border. It is in the free state of Cameron." He meant Brownsville is in Cameron county, and between the lines he meant that in a sense it can hardly be regarded as being in the United States.

Place to Be Quiet. Brownsville is not a healthy place to "start anything." The men there know how to fondle blue-steel hardware with precision. They do not believe in wasting ammunition. Conditions have been improving of late. It is not many years since the first railroad was built into Brownsville. The only real line now entering the town is the St. Louis, Brownsville & Mexico, which now is in the hands of a receiver. There is a twenty-mile narrow gauge line running to Point Isabel, on the gulf.

This town has the most execrable streets of any town of the size in the country. During the rainy season the main streets leading to the new court house are a foot deep with a black, sticky mud which is churned up by the Mexican "hacks," which are the chief means of conveyance. The fine new court house was built about half a mile from the main street, and at times it is hardly possible to walk to this court house without getting into mud up to one's shoe tops.

The American residence section includes some beautiful homes, but the Mexican quarters are typical of old Mexico, with small dingy structures along dilapidated streets. I asked an editor why the streets were not improved so as to drain the moisture during the rainy season, and he replied by saying that it would be impossible from an engineering standpoint, because part of the town is lower than the river.

Rowboat Ferry. From one of the main streets is a board walk which leads to the United States immigration and customs houses at the river. At this point is what is known as a "ferry," consisting of swarthy Mexicans with row boats. For 5 cents one may be taken across the river, and on the other side is the terminus of a street car line which goes up to Matamoros, in the state of Tamaulipas, Old Mexico. The street cars are drawn by little Mexican hames. After a ride through an unwholesome waste of country, the street car enters Matamoros, which today is a relic of what once was a prosperous Mexican city of 8,000 people. Today the population is about 18,000. Poverty and gloom are seen on every hand. The visitor may see Mexican soldiers here and there, peering under large hats with ominous glances. They are a nondescript lot, with all sorts of armaments and taking a seeming delight in exposing their loaded belts.

People Frightened Away. A year ago last May Matamoros was enjoying prosperity under the Villa regime, but the constitutionalists came in and took the town, burned the bull ring and scored most of the people away. They crossed to the American side by thousands. There was a fine band of thirty-five men and that is all gone. Gone are the bull fights and the social life of the city. The Carranzistas have established a so-called military headquarters uptown, with General E. P. Nafarrata in command. I visited the headquarters and saw many machine guns stored and ready for immediate use. The soldiers have built earthworks around the city.

Some of the well-to-do Spanish families still maintain their residence there. I met Elizabeth Chandler Hendrix of Atlanta, Ga., in Matamoros and she told me the poverty there just now is almost unspicable. Last Christmas time she succeeded in getting a carload of presents and clothing from people in Texas for the children of Matamoros. She has written "My Brother's Keeper," a story of Mexican life, which will be out soon from a Chicago press. She has spent a year studying Mexican life as it really exists and she believes the Mexicans are a benighted lot, with invaluable natural resources at their very door and yet they are hardly civilized.

Woman Smuggler in Running Fight With Officers

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 13.—A woman smuggler, known as Goldie Evans, led a band of five men in battle against three United States immigration officials at the Mexican border near Calexico last night, according to word received by federal officials here today. Evans and her men exchanged in a running fight among the mesquite bushes of the desert, but in the end the woman, one of her male followers and six Chinese who they were trying to smuggle into the United States were taken prisoners by the three government agents. There were to automobile loads of contraband Chinese in the smuggler's party, according to official information. All but six escaped to the mountains of lower California.

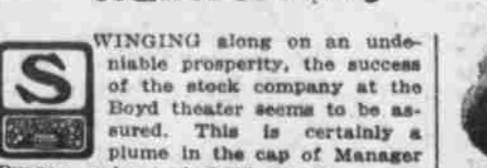
DAUGHTER OF THE LATE E. H. HARRIMAN GOES WEST

In a special car attached to the Los Angeles Limited, Mrs. C. C. Rumsey, daughter of the late E. H. Harriman, will leave here today, accompanied by a party of fifteen persons. The party is routed to Los Angeles.

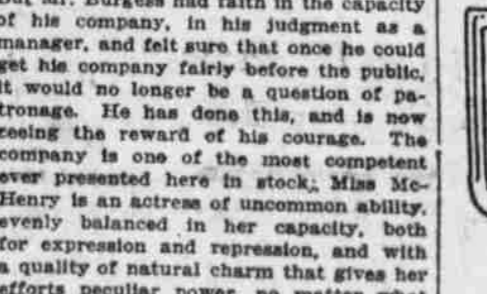
Chauncey Olcott and Edith Luckett in 'The Heart of Paddy Whack' At the Brandeis



H.B. Warner in 'Under Cover' Coming to the Brandeis



At the Boyd Frances McHenry



Miss Elsie Bernard At the Empress

WINGING along on an undeniable property, the success of the stock company at the Boyd theater seems to be assured. This is certainly a plume in the cap of Manager Burgess, who took hold of the venture under the most unfavorable conditions. Omaha's experience with stock organizations for the last two or three years had not been the most pleasant, and outward indications were all against the possible success of the new venture at the Boyd. But Mr. Burgess had faith in the capacity of his company, in his judgment as a manager, and felt sure that once he could get his company fairly before the public, it would no longer be a question of patronage. He has done this, and is now seeing the reward of his courage. The company is one of the most competent ever presented here in stock, Miss McHenry is an actress of uncommon ability, evenly balanced in her capacity, both for expression and repression, and with a quality of natural charm that gives her efforts peculiar power, no matter what character she is asked to put on. Mr. Lynch has also shown a wide range of adaptability, and has made a great many new friends by his work with the company. Mr. Hill is a stage director of much experience and catholic taste, and a player of excellent parts, and the company under his skilful handling is accomplishing wonders in the way of intelligent presentation of a most interesting list of plays.

Commonly it won't do to believe what you hear about the amazing salaries received by vaudeville performers; yet it is an established fact that such celebrities as Bernhard and Ethel Barrymore have drawn stipends of astonishing proportions. It was the renown of Bernhard that made it possible for her to command a salary of \$5,000 a week; but now there is an entertainer, a mere variety performer, who receives as much as she received. True, he is not guaranteed that much, but working as he does on a percentage basis, he never fails to get his \$5,000 and in some weeks that figure is exceeded.

Who is he? Doubtless you have heard of him—Elyvester Schaffer. Manager Byrne of the Orpheum has word that this highest salaried entertainer in the world comes to Omaha during the week of February 24. This what Schaffer does: He presents ten headline acts entirely by himself. First, he shows card and coin manipulations; then he paints in oil; next does Japanese juggling; fourth, he entertains as a German juggler; fifth, he is a circus horseman; sixth, appears as animal trainer; seventh, as a rifle marksmen; eighth, as a violinist; ninth, as a strong man; tenth, a startling finale that he calls "Apotheosis." Schaffer works alone on the stage, but he carries with him a musical director, a physician and a physical trainer.

Chauncey Olcott's annual engagements always bring this favorite star in plays of romantic interest and in his comedy, by Rachel Crothers. Mr. Olcott is said to have a vehicle quite unusual. Its title is "The Heart of Paddy Whack," a quaint name which will itself attract much attention. To tell the plot would spoil the interest of those who will see "The Heart of Paddy Whack," but a glimpse at the start of the play will be interesting. Paddy Whack is in reality Dennis O'Malley, a greenback barrister who prefers his quiet town to greater legal success in Dublin. Here he lives among his friends and his kind heart and bright wit make him a favorite with his neighbors and clients. Into his quiet life comes Mona Cairn, his ward long away at school. Mona is young and pretty and vivacious and one of her first acts is to nick-name O'Malley Paddy Whack. Dennis soon finds his affection for her deepening into a greater love, but he stills his love and tries to arrange a fitting match for her with a younger man. But Mona and the fates will otherwise and a romance develops that is said to sparkle with rollicking fun and shade often into deeper sentiments. Its scenes are laid in the barrister's picturesque garden and in the living room of his home. The play has its scenes in the period of 1880, brilliant costumes and color form a part of its production. Mr. Olcott will have

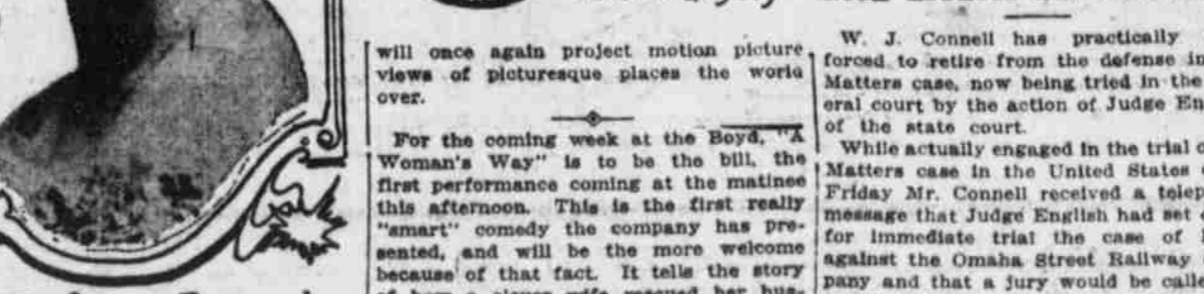
At the heaters



Florence Moore At the Orpheum



Princess Rajah At the Orpheum



Mollie Williams At the Gayety

will once again project motion picture views of picturesque places the world over. For the coming week at the Boyd, "A Woman's Way" is to be the bill, the first performance coming at the matinee this afternoon. This is the first really "smart" comedy company has presented, and will be the more welcome because of that fact. It tells the story of how a clever wife rescued her husband from the wiles of a fascinating widow by just showing him "the difference." The play is cleverly written, and sparkles in every act with its bright wit, happy humor and cutting satire. It is also the first "dress" affair of the spring season, and will give the ladies of the company an opportunity to display their new gowns and hats, a chance that is not going to be overlooked. Miss McHenry will be Marion Stanton, the wife, and Miss Dewar will play Mrs. Blakemore, the widow. Mr. Lynch, of course, will be Jack Stanton, the husband who almost makes a mistake, and Mr. Lindholm, Mr. Watson, Miss Warfield and Miss Gilbert will be prominent in the play. For the special Tuesday evening attraction, Lena Ellsworth Dale has been secured and will give a program of her own songs on that evening. Manager Burgess also announces that he has re-engaged Helen Kroner and Harry Walker to give their dance demonstrations at each performance during the week. "A Woman's Way" will be offered first at the matinee this afternoon, and will be presented each evening during the week, with other matinees on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons.

Jake Goldenberg's "Gay New Yorker" company opens a week's engagement at the Gayety theater, with the matinee this afternoon, continuing throughout the week. There is enough action in the two acts of the play to occupy the busiest mind, and sufficient amusing dialogue and original music of the better kind to please all. Daniel Murphy and Irving Gear have been entrusted with the comedy of the play. The presenting company also names Miss Dolly Morrissey, the Parisian nightingale; Stella Morrissey, Alma Fleming, Beatrice Loftus, Fanny Pollock, Jack Many, the Three Harmony Girls (Pearl Ross, Dorothy Drew and Annette Marion), Jennette La Dove, Lillian Erier, Dot Carlyle, Milton Hammer and the Fifth Avenue Fashion Plate Beauty chorus complete a standard of show that is well worth patronage. Ladies' matinees will be given daily, to which the ladies are invited to attend. Mollie Williams will be the special added attraction.

William Benson and company head the bill at the Empress with their novelty offering known as "Hop Lee's Dream." The skit is a comedy musical rendition of the first water and has an international reputation. The three Halson boys are premier cabaret entertainers and eccentric dancers. Bernard and Meyers have their "Fresh Cabbie" comedy and the peculiar horse. Nadel and Kane are the closing act and have proven to be a veritable three-ring circus in themselves. "Captain Swift" is the photo-play offering for the week. The story deals with a wide range of material from the life of the Australian bushranger to the high society of London. Four vaudeville shows are given daily and the photo-plays are shown at noon, at supper time and after the last evening show.

With films of Gaby Deslys, and with perfect picture reproductions of "East Lynne" and other stirring features, Manager Schank has made an exceptional selection of reel art to show at the Hipp

AMUSEMENTS. Daily Mat. 2:15 Next 8:15. Orpheum ADVANCED VAUDEVILLE Week Starting Sunday Matinee, Feb. 14. William Montgomery and Florence Moore. Princess Radjah. Carlos Sebastian and Dorothy Bentley. Al Rover. Homer B. Mason & Marguerite Keeler. George Austin Moore & Cordelia Haager. Kremolina & Darras Bros.

BRANDEIS THEATRE CRAWFORD, PHILLEY & ZEHRUNG, Mgrs. TONIGHT & MONDAY MATINEE TUESDAY CHAUNCEY OLCOTT In Rachel Crothers' New Comedy The Heart of Paddy Whack An Irish Bachelor's Romance, Tender in Sentiment and Brimming Over With Fun A HALF DOZEN NEW OLCOTT SONGS Feb. 21 22 & 23 SPECIAL MATINEE MONDAY "UNDER COVER" WITH H. B. WARNER and the Guaranteed Original Chicago Co. SEAT SALE TOMORROW 9 A. M.

Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra Miss Frances Nash, Pianist BOYD THEATRE FRIDAY EVENING, FEB. 19TH Tickets 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50

HIPP THEATRE Douglas 3005 15th and Marzay Sts. SPECIAL—TODAY ONLY WALKY VAN in the Broadway Star Feature "C. O. D." Monday and Tuesday "East Lynne" Wednesday and Thursday EXHIBIT EXTRAORDINARY GABY DESLYS Friday and Saturday JOHN EMERSON "The Bachelor's Romance"

EMPIRESS Week of Sunday, Feb. 14. WM. BENSON & Co. Offer "HOP KEE'S DREAM" 3—HALSON BOYS—3 NADEL and KANE BERNARD & MEYERS "CAPTAIN SWIFT"

Boyd Omaha's Most Popular Theatre Starting Mat. Today—All Week Grace George's delightful comedy A woman's play that the men like, too Woman's Way A Real Show At'Reel' Prices Helen Kroner - Harry Walker Tuesday SOCIETY Night Mrs. Lena Ellsworth Dale Next Week—SEVEN DAYS SIGMUND LANDSBERG, Pianist, Composer and Instructor GENEVIEVE HAULFAIRE School of DANCING